

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MAY 24, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Spring Clean Up** – The Public Works Divisions, including Park Maintenance, completed their annual Spring Clean Up Day on Thursday, May 23. They split up into teams to visit parks and open spaces in the four quadrants of the City and pick up debris and litter.
2. **Fire Department News** – The Fire Department hosted the “Blue Card” training event this week at Station No. 1. The event included a collaborative Incident Command training for Edina Fire personnel and our neighboring Fire Departments. Our Emergency Management staff met with school staffs this week to review their emergency plans.

Our Special Operations Team was called out to St. Paul this week to assist with the search-and-rescue operation at the landslide at Lilydale Regional Park.

The new demolition management ordinance is not slowing down demolition or redevelopment. Permits applications are still coming in and going out at a good pace.

3. **Development Update** – At its meeting this week, the Planning Commission recommended unanimous approval of two projects. The first was for a Final Rezoning and Final Development Plan for the Byerly’s redevelopment at 7171 France Ave. The project includes a new 47,000-square-foot Byerly’s store, 21,000 square feet of miscellaneous retail, and 234 units of rental apartments. The second approval was for a Site Plan Review with Variances for an 89,000-square-foot addition to Fairview Southdale Hospital for an Emergency and Urgent Care Center. The City Council will consider both of these items at its June 4 Council meeting.
4. **FEMA Flood Maps** – In the three weeks since Engineering staff sent out notices to over 800 property owners describing FEMA’s update of floodplain maps, our new Water Resources Coordinator, Laura Adler, has responded to more than 150 calls from residents. Calls ranged from simple clarifications to requests for more information, such as discussion of land value and redevelopment potential; technical discussions about floodplain, flood risk and the complex relationship between rainfall, runoff, soil moisture and impervious surfaces. Based on feedback from callers, Engineering staff have identified three areas where a technical appeal of FEMA’s proposed boundary may be justified and is working to develop a scope of service with Barr Engineering to explore each and, if needed, prepare the appeal.

5. **Rainfall** – After recent rains, lake levels and stream flows have rebounded from the drought conditions seen in the fall of 2012. Minnehaha Creek flow at Hiawatha jumped from 17 cubic feet per second (cfs) on May 17, to over 200 cfs on May 19. Flows remain elevated as upstream systems and Lake Minnetonka continue to increase its flow.
6. **Aquatic Center** – The Aquatic Center will be a host site for the World’s Largest Swimming Lesson to be held 10 to 10:30 a.m. June 18. We are partnering on this event with Abbey’s Hope Charitable Foundation, Aquajets Swim Club, Edina Gators Swim Club, Martha Burns Swim School, Saint Michael Sea Devils and the Southdale YMCA. The World’s Largest Swimming Lesson is a day when all the top water safety and training organizations join forces to build awareness about the vital importance of teaching children to swim to prevent drowning.
7. **Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction** – The 2013 projects are under way. Here is an update. Lake Edina: Phase 1 of 3 utility work is anticipated to be completed by next week. The paving of this phase will be early June. Improvements to the sound wall such as painting and planting of vines should be completed by end of May. Braemar Hills: Water main installation is complete. Contractor continues to work on other utility work such as storm sewer and sanitary sewer improvements. Normandale: Sanitary sewer main relining is will be completed by end of May. We have a special meeting setup with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to acquire the permit prior to starting any excavation. A wetland delineation (field verification of the wetland), which was delayed by the late winter, has been required by the watershed district. Vernon Avenue: The raw water main project will start June 3. Staff is working with Hennepin County staff to design bike facilities along Vernon Ave. Vernon Avenue is scheduled for a mill and overlay in late September or early October. Mendelssohn: The start of this project is delayed due to Centerpoint Energy’s work. We anticipate an end of June start date.
8. **Braemar Golf** – In a 25-day time span (May 18-June 11), Braemar Golf has 11 graduation parties scheduled in the Valliere Room.

The “Between Nines Scotty Stop BBQ” promotion begins at Braemar Memorial Day weekend. On weekends throughout the summer (weather permitting), Braemar staff will grill on the lower deck so golfers can grab a quick bite between nines and keep moving.

Staff are in the process of renovating fairways. It is a difficult spring as more than 50 percent of the fairway turf was lost to “winter kill.” The layer of ice that formed after hard rains followed by freezing temperatures effectively suffocated much of the turf. Many golf courses in the area, including top private courses, were similarly affected. Fortunately, our greens came through very well because of the different turf strain from the fairways. Our superintendent was very proactive and immediately purchased a new slit seeder. A number of courses later have followed his lead. He and his staff aerated and heavily seeded with a custom blend of seed (even in the snow) as soon as they possibly could. The fairways have also been fertilized and the irrigation system has been enabled. There should be a dramatic improvement in the turf quality very soon when the weather is consistently warmer. Over-seeding will be an ongoing process throughout this season and in following years. The end result will be healthier, more durable and playable fairways.

- 9. Art Center** – The Edina Art Center offers 72 summer camps each year. As of May 22, 16 camps are full, and four of those have waiting lists (all “Clay on the Wheel” camps). 23 percent of camps are full with three weeks until camps begin. We advertised on MyTalk 107.1, PaveLife, and LivingSocial for the first time to increase memberships and summer camp registrations.
- 10. Edina Chorale** – Mayor Jim Hovland will be the guest director for the Edina Chorale’s performance of “Hit the Road Jack” at the Maetzold Amphitheater at Centennial Lakes Park at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10.